

Environmental Technologies

Overview

Bulgaria's accession to the EU was a major impetus for large-scale environmental remediation and implementation of new environmental standards in Bulgaria. Bulgaria will have to invest major funds to meet EU environmental requirements. Some of the funding are coming from EU funds for environmental water and waste infrastructure projects. Bulgaria will need to import almost all of the technology for these requirements, and U.S. companies that possess world-class technology, equipment, services and systems at competitive prices will be best poised to benefit from these opportunities. There are no restrictions for U.S. firms to take advantage of EU funding for environmental projects.

Sub-Sector Best Prospects

Air:

The air-pollution control sector will provide opportunities for construction of air-pollution control installations at various industrial facilities.

Water and wastewater:

Most industries in Bulgaria need to construct or upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities in the next 3-4 years in order to meet the new EU requirement. Urban wastewater treatment plants are planned for hundreds of cities and towns with population equivalent of above 2,000 through 2015. There are EU funds for the construction of waste water treatment plants and water supply/ sewage networks at many municipalities. The Bulgarian municipalities will tender these projects as design and build projects. Price is a leading factor in winning these tenders.

Solid waste:

Currently Bulgaria utilizes landfills for the disposal of municipal waste. The EU requires Bulgaria to decrease the number of landfills and build regional landfills for a group of municipalities.

There is a critical need to find more environmentally friendly ways to handle hazardous, solid, and industrial waste, such as waste-to-energy projects, recycling, and waste minimization.

There are a few projects underway for the construction of solid waste treatment plants but nothings has been finalized yet. The market is not very receptive of composting projects.

Web Resources

Ministry of Environment and Water-- <http://www.moew.government.bg/?&lang=en>